

DESK STATEMENT: Release of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report Summary for Policymakers, Working Group I on Science

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The Summary for Policymakers of the first volume of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) new assessment report "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis" will be released on 2 February. The full report will be made available in mid-2007.

The report, prepared by IPCC Working Group (WG) I, assesses the current scientific knowledge of the natural and human drivers of climate change, observed changes in climate, the ability of science to attribute changes to different causes, and projections for future climate change that include temperature, precipitation and sea level rise.

This report does not cover the impacts of climate change on human health and the environment, or options for the mitigation of climate change. These aspects will be covered in subsequent reports by IPCC WG II (impacts, adaptation and vulnerability), and WG III (mitigation options) to be finalized respectively in early April and early May this year.

The US government has been a significant contributor to this report, with scientists serving as Lead and Contributing Authors and providing comments in the official government review process – in which EPA was involved. Official government delegations, including from the U.S., will be in Paris 29 January - 1 February to approve the Summary for Policymakers line by line, and then accept the underlying report.

NOAA has been the most active US government agency in this report's process and plans to make some of its scientists available to media to discuss technical aspects beginning 2 February. Please refer press inquiries to Kent Laborde, NOAA Public Affairs, at 202-482-5757 (email kent.laborde@noaa.gov) or Jana Goldman at 301-734-1123 (email Jana.Goldman@noaa.gov)

The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of the state of knowledge on climate change to the world community. IPCC assessments represent the most up-to-date thinking of the largest body of international scientific experts ever assembled on the subject of climate change. It has prepared three prior assessments published in 1990, 1995 and 2001.

Talking Points

Details of the report's findings have not been made official but NOAA scientist Susan Solomon, co-chair of WGI, said the report will include an "explosion of new data."

IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri has indicated the report will include "much stronger evidence now of human actions on the change in climate that's taken place."

The report will be made available in English on 2 February at <http://www.ipcc.ch>